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Killed on the same day: the sad fate of the two Goddard brothers in the First World War

Although there are many cases of brothers being killed during the First World War, it is fortunately rare that two are killed on the same day. So, it is perhaps surprising that two more brothers with connections with Chesterfield were killed on the same day just over a year later than the Verner brothers.



Joseph Goddard was born at Eckington in 1882 but by 1891 the family, including a younger brother Benjamin, was living in Chesterfield. The brothers were evidently close as by 1914 they were both employed at Barlborough Colliery, played for the same football team, and were living in the same row of cottages in Clowne.

The brothers enlisted in the Sherwood Foresters on the same day and went to France together. Benjamin was killed on the night of 24th / 25th June and Joseph on the morning of the 25th. They were buried together, but their remains were never reinterred in a cemetery; they are commemorated on the Menin Gate. Their parents were still living in Chesterfield, which explains the memorial (left) at Spital Cemetery.

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